

Office of Personnel Management

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(h) For the purpose of determining overtime pay for work in excess of 40 hours in a workweek under this part, time spent in a travel status is hours of work as provided in § 551.422 of this part and § 550.112(g) of this chapter or 5 U.S.C. 5544, as applicable.

[45 FR 85664, Dec. 30, 1980, as amended at 52 FR 47687, Dec. 16, 1987, and 53 FR 27147, July 19, 1988; 56 FR 20343, May 3, 1991; 57 FR 59279, Dec. 15, 1992; 64 FR 69180, Dec. 10, 1999]

§ 551.402 Agency responsibility.

(a) An agency is responsible for exercising appropriate controls to assure that only that work for which it intends to make payment is performed.

(b) An agency shall keep complete and accurate records of all hours worked by its employees.

APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES IN RELATION TO NORMAL WORKDAY

§ 551.411 Workday.

(a) For the purposes of this part, *workday* means the period between the commencement of the principal activities that an employee is engaged to perform on a given day, and the cessation of the principal activities for that day. All time spent by an employee in the performance of such activities is hours of work. The workday is not limited to a calendar day or any other 24-hour period.

(b) Any rest period authorized by an agency that does not exceed 20 minutes and that is within the workday shall be considered hours of work.

(c) *Bona fide* meal periods are not considered hours of work, except for on-duty meal periods for employees engaged in fire protection or law enforcement activities who receive compensation for overtime hours of work under 5 U.S.C. 5545(c)(1) or (2) or 5545b. However, for employees engaged in fire protection or law enforcement activities who have periods of duty of more than 24 hours, on-duty meal periods may be excluded from hours of work by agreement between the employer and the employee, except as provided in § 551.432(e) and (f).

[45 FR 85664, Dec. 30, 1980, as amended at 48 FR 36805, Aug. 15, 1983; 57 FR 59279, Dec. 15, 1992; 67 FR 15467, Apr. 2, 2002]

§ 551.412 Preparatory or concluding activities.

(a) (1) If an agency reasonably determines that a preparatory or concluding activity is closely related to an employee's principal activities, and is indispensable to the performance of the principal activities, and that the total time spent in that activity is more than 10 minutes per workday, the agency shall credit all of the time spent in that activity, including the 10 minutes, as hours of work.

(2) If the time spent in a preparatory or concluding activity is compensable as hours of work, the agency shall schedule the time period for the employee to perform that activity. An employee shall be credited with the actual time spent in that activity during the time period scheduled by the agency. In no case shall the time credited for the performance of an activity exceed the time scheduled by the agency. The employee shall be credited for the time spent performing preparatory or concluding activities in accordance with paragraph (b) of § 551.521 of this part.

(b) A preparatory or concluding activity that is not closely related to the performance of the principal activities is considered a preliminary or postliminary activity. Time spent in preliminary or postliminary activities is excluded from hours of work and is not compensable, even if it occurs between periods of activity that are compensable as hours of work.

[48 FR 36805, Aug. 15, 1983]

APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES IN RELATION TO OTHER ACTIVITIES

§ 551.421 Regular working hours.

(a) Under the Act there is no requirement that a Federal employee have a regularly scheduled administrative workweek. However, under title 5 United States Code, and part 610 of this chapter, the head of an agency is required to establish work schedules for his or her employees. In determining what activities constitute hours of work under the Act, there is generally a distinction based on whether the activity is performed by an employee

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during regular working hours or outside regular working hours. For purposes of this part, “regular working hours” means the days and hours of an employee’s regularly scheduled administrative workweek established under part 610 of this chapter.

[45 FR 85664, Dec. 30, 1980, as amended at 48 FR 36806, Aug. 15, 1983]

§ 551.422 Time spent traveling.

(a) Time spent traveling shall be considered hours of work if:

(1) An employee is required to travel during regular working hours;

(2) An employee is required to drive a vehicle or perform other work while traveling;

(3) An employee is required to travel as a passenger on a one-day assignment away from the official duty station; or

(4) An employee is required to travel as a passenger on an overnight assignment away from the official duty station during hours on nonworkdays that correspond to the employee’s regular working hours.

(b) An employee who travels from home before the regular workday begins and returns home at the end of the workday is engaged in normal “home to work” travel; such travel is not hours of work. When an employee travels directly from home to a temporary duty location outside the limits of his or her official duty station, the time the employee would have spent in normal home to work travel shall be deducted from hours of work as specified in paragraphs (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this section.

(c) An employee who is offered one mode of transportation, and who is permitted to use an alternative mode of transportation, or an employee who travels at a time other than that selected by the agency, shall be credited with the lesser of:

(1) The actual travel time which is hours of work under this section; or

(2) The estimated travel time which would have been considered hours of work under this section had the employee used the mode of transportation offered by the agency, or traveled at the time selected by the agency.

(d) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, an agency may prescribe a mileage radius of not greater

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than 50 miles to determine whether an employee’s travel is within or outside the limits of the employee’s official duty station for determining entitlement to overtime pay for travel under this part. However, an agency’s definition of an employee’s official duty station for determining overtime pay for travel may not be smaller than the definition of “official station and post of duty” under the Federal Travel Regulation issued by the General Services Administration (41 CFR 301–1.3(c)(4)).

[45 FR 85664, Dec. 30, 1980, as amended at 59 FR 66635, Dec. 28, 1994]

§ 551.423 Time spent in training or attending a lecture, meeting, or conference.

(a) Time spent in training, whether or not it is under the purview of part 410 of this chapter, shall be administered as follows:

(1) Time spent in training during regular working hours shall be considered hours of work.

(2) Time spent in training outside regular working hours shall be considered hours of work if:

(i) The employee is directed to participate in the training by his or her employing agency; and

(ii) The purpose of the training is to improve the employee’s performance of the duties and responsibilities of his or her current position.

(3) Time spent in apprenticeship or other entry level training, or internship or other career related work study training, or training under the Veterans Readjustment Act (5 CFR part 307) outside regular working hours shall not be considered hours of work, provided no productive work is performed during such periods, except as provided by § 410.402(b) of this chapter and paragraphs (f) and (g) of § 551.401.

(4) Time spent by an employee performing work for the agency during a period of training shall be considered hours of work.

(b) The following phrases contained in paragraph (a) of this section, are further clarified:

(1) *Directed to participate* means that the training is required by the agency and the employee’s performance or continued retention in his or her current position will be adversely affected